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AN EARLY AMERICAN MICROSCOPE.

WM. H. SEAMAN, M. D., Washington, D. C.

On page 18, vol. xiii, of Proceedings will be found some account of the collection of microscopes in the Army Medical Museum at Washington, D. C., where the attempt has been made to illustrate the history of the development of the microscope by a series of fac-similes of all the various forms of the instrument that have been used. Many of these were made under the direction of Mr. John Mayall, who during his life devoted much time to the history of the microscope.

It is remarkable that this collection does not yet contain a specimen of the Spencer Trunnion Microscope, figured on the opposite page, which was the earliest effort in this country to make a high-class instrument. By a letter from Dr J. S. Billings we learn that an instrument of this kind was in the Smithsonian Institution in 1864, but all traces of it seem to be lost. The Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia had a nearly similar one in 1863, but so far all inquiries made for the purpose of obtaining an instrument of this kind to complete the Museum collection have been in vain, and a specimen is still desired. Our cut is from "The Microscopists' Companion," by John King, Cincinnati, 1859, one of the earliest American books on the microscope.

NOTE.

The American Microscopical Society by the Secretary has received from the author, Dr. Filandro Vicentini, of Chieti, Italy, three publications relating to the bacteria of the mouth, which have considerable interest for microscopists, as they give evidence of careful work, and also contain very full references to the work of previous investigators in this field of research.

F. Vincentini, the author of these scientific memoirs, has given

special attention to the morphology of the microorganisms found in the buccal cavity of healthy persons and those suffering from whooping-cough. He very properly arrives at the conclusion that no one of the bacteria observed by himself, or by those who have preceded him in examining the sputa of cases of whooping-cough, has been demonstrated to bear an etiological relation to this disease. The memoirs referred to, which were published in the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery of Naples, bear the following titles :

“ Upon the sputa of whooping-cough ” (1890).

“ New bacteriological study of the sputa ” (1892).

“ *Leptothrix Racemosa* ” (1893).

The above note is by Dr. Geo. M. Sternberg, to whom the memoirs were sent for examination.

In addition to the papers herein printed, Mr. Geo. M. Rafter gave at the Rochester meeting a verbal description of his method for the biological examination of potable water, printed in the Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Science, copies of which can be had from the author.